

Minutes of the Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture  
May 8, 2014 7:30pm, at the Jefferson Cutter House

Attending: Adria Arch, Aimee Taberner, Barbara Costa, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Carla Dorato, David Ardito, and Roland Chaput

Also: Laura Wiener from the Arlington Planning Department and Affordable Housing Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 by Ms. Marlin-Curiel.

1. There is a requirement for attendees to sign in which Ms. Costa said is now mandated. Members questioned the rule so she will talk to Town Counsel.

2. Members then welcomed Ms. Wiener and asked a number of questions to be in better communication with the Planning Department about the Mass Ave Corridor Project as well as (later on) the Master Plan process. She showed us an engineering map which illustrated three distinct locations where space was provided to display public art. There were questions about some of the details including location, type, size, dimensions and other possible sites. Three locations have been set: the Grafton Street intersection, Winter Street near "Olivio's" and two possible Hubway sites near Cleveland Street.

Ms. Wiener stated that the corridor plan is nearly finished and told us that any significant changes at this point will most likely not be possible.

3. There was then a general discussion of a number of subjects:

Ms. Wiener suggested that for input and comments on the Master Plan White Papers, an e mail message to Ted Fields, Planning Department coordinator for

the Arlington Master Plan may be beneficial since all inputs from the public are appreciated and still welcome.

Ms. Taberner stressed a concern for historic locations in town and the need for a working relationship with the public and the town. Ms. Marlin-Curiel emphasized the need for cultural opportunities especially within the Mass Ave Corridor Plan.

Ms. Taberner mentioned the importance of cultural districts including the Arlington Center area and the Dallin Museum. She stated there should be an "historic theme" and an "Economic theme" and queried when public art does become historic, whether it is public or private property. Ms Wiener stated the master plan considers public art from an archeological viewpoint and that cultural resources are considered in that category.

Mr. Ardito commented that even a 1% stipend for public art in all new construction will be highly beneficial.. However Ms. Dorato stated she did not believe it would be possible with private developers. Ms. Wiener said there is a "Visual Survey" planned on June 10th using the new electronic voting handsets to obtain a feeling of the public on architectural style preferences.

Mr. Ardito wanted to know about Environmental Design Reviews for any public art to be considered. It was felt that an EDR may be required in some instances and that all facets of the policy will be considered and accepted or rejected. Ms Marlin-Curiel felt there are still too many unknowns. Ms. Wiener talked briefly about bikeway markings on the new Mass Ave corridor. Mr. Ardito suggested the ACAC meet with the Board of Selectmen to familiarize them with more details of our mission. Ms. Wiener stated that the use of "ornamental" benches might be possible but the current plan is to use benches that have already been approved by state regulations.

On another subject, Ms. Taberner commented on our real mission,. "Who are we and what are our goals and mission? Can we help with the master plan? She stated we are too often in a reactive mode rather than a positive one in terms of interpretation of cultural amenities. Mr. Ardito stated "We want a symbiotic relationship with all departments in the town".

#### 4. Other business:

Mr. Chaput's revised minutes were approved with suggested changes. He suggested that several members take on the recording secretary role in a shared arrangement. The co-chairs will follow up.

Mr. Ardito reported that entries in the Art Rocks Menotomy Show were now installed. Some of the pieces were shown in the Advocate including a video. He also reported that a video has been produced by Arlington High School students of the Winfred Rembert Artist Residency.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm. The next meeting will be June 5th at the Cutter House.

Respectfully submitted, Roland Chaput, acting Recording Secretary